GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:177
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2007
NORMS FOR MANUFACTURING OF HEALTH FRIENDLY PAINTS
Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has laid down any norms for manufacturing of paints;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the paints available in the domestic market contains high level of lead that is known to adversely affect the health in several ways; and

(d) if so, the measures taken to ensure availability of health friendly paints in the market?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH)

(a) to (d): The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution has set standards for various kinds of paints. Manufacturers are granted licences after checking each product sample and after the same confirms to the set standards. BIS have set 27 standards categorized as "A", "B" and "C" for Paints, Varnishes and Related Products. In the case of paints which are categorized as A, the limit for lead content is < 0.03% while for Category B, the limit for lead content is 0.03% to < 0.1%. For Category C, the limit for lead content has been identified as > 0.1% to <4.18%.

BIS has constituted Paints, Varnishes and Related Products Sectional Committee to review these 27 standards including the limits of lead content keeping in view the current technology, market demand, commercial viability, ecological aspect, safety aspect & health concerns etc. BIS is in the process of preparing draft revisions on these 27 standards and would be circulating to all stakeholders for obtaining comments before its finalization.